

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 5-6, 9, 16-46, 53, 57-79, 88, and 90.

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for use in a wellbore, An expandable seal for sealing at least part of a wall of a well borehole, the expandable seal comprising:
an expandable tubular support member; and
an inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with at least a portion of the wellbore part of the wall of the well borehole.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portion of the wellbore is lined with a tubular the expandable seal is adapted for sealing at least part of a wall of a tubing-lined borehole.
4. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one chamber adapted for inflation to urge the seal element radially outwardly.
5. Cancelled.
6. Cancelled.
7. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the chamber is annular and at least partially defined by the seal element and the support member.

8. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the chamber is adapted to be initially isolated from annulus pressure and fluid in the wellbore borehole.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a filler material adapted for maintaining the seal element in sealing engagement with the wellbore borehole.

11. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a chamber adapted for inflation to urge the seal element radially outwardly, the chamber containing a filler material adapted for maintaining the seal element under pressure in sealing engagement with the wellbore borehole.

12. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 10, wherein the filler material is adapted to react with a ~~selected~~ reactant to solidify and maintain the chamber in an inflated condition.

13. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 10, wherein the filler material comprises a granular solid material.

14. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seal element is adapted to be inflated by applied fluid pressure.

15. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of A seal as claimed in claim 14, comprising a reactant fluid for reacting with a filler material in the seal element to form a single, solid member for maintaining the seal element inflated.

16. – 46. Cancelled.

47. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for use in a wellbore, ~~An expandable seal assembly for sealing at least part of a wall of a well borehole, the assembly comprising:~~

~~at least two expandable seals for sealing engagement with a the wall of the wellbore well borehole, each expandable seal comprising an expandable tubular support member and an inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with the well borehole wall.~~

48. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the at least two expandable seals comprise a first expandable seal spaced apart from a second expandable seal ~~An expandable seal assembly for sealing at least part of a wall of a well borehole, the assembly comprising:~~

~~first and second spaced expandable seals for sealing engagement with the wall of the well borehole at spaced locations, each expandable seal comprising an expandable tubular support member and an inflatable seal element mounted externally of the expandable tubular support member for inflation radially outwardly into sealing engagement with the well borehole wall.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of ~~An assembly as claimed in claim 48, further comprising an expandable tubular extending between the first and second spaced expandable seals.~~

50. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of ~~An assembly as claimed in claim 49, wherein the expandable tubular comprises an expandable sandscreen.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of ~~An assembly as claimed in claim 50, wherein the expandable sandscreen comprises an inner expandable support tubing, an outer expandable protective tubing and a filter screen sandwiched between the inner and outer tubing.~~

52. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of An assembly as claimed in claim 49, further comprising a solid tubular coupled to at least one of the first and second expandable seals.

53. Cancelled.

54. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of An assembly as claimed in claim 52, wherein the solid tubular is expandable.

55. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of An assembly as claimed in claim 49, wherein the expandable tubular comprises an at least partly perforated tubular.

56. (Currently Amended) The sealing apparatus of An assembly as claimed in claim 48, comprising an expandable sandscreen located around the seals, the sandscreen adapted to be expanded in one or more location by inflation of the inflatable seal element of a selected one or more seal.

59. – 79. Cancelled.

80. (Original) A sealing apparatus for sealing at least one flow port in an expandable downhole tubular, the sealing apparatus comprising:
a sealing member coupled to the expandable tubular, the sealing member including a deformable portion movable between a closed position preventing fluid flow through the flow port and an open position permitting fluid flow through the flow port.

81. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted to be expanded on expansion of the expandable tubular.

82. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is normally urged towards the closed position.
83. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is plastically deformable.
84. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the deformable portion is movable between the closed and open positions in response to an applied fluid pressure force.
85. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the deformable portion is adapted to move to the open position in response to an applied fluid pressure force of a determined magnitude.
86. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is mounted externally of the expandable tubular.
87. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein the sealing member is secured to an outer surface of the tubular.
88. Cancelled.
89. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is mounted internally of the expandable tubular.
90. Cancelled.
91. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 89, wherein the sealing member is of a material having a lower Young's modulus than the expandable tubular.

92. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is annular and has an end adapted to be secured to the expandable tubular.

93. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 92, wherein the other end of the sealing member engages the expandable tubular in an interference fit.

94. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted for sealing a plurality of flow ports spaced around a circumference of the expandable tubular.

95. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing member is adapted for sealing a plurality of flow ports spaced along a length of the expandable tubular.

96. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the sealing member is a sleeve.

97. (Original) A sealing apparatus as claimed in claim 80, wherein the sealing apparatus has a utility for sealing a flow port in an expandable support tube of a seal as claimed in claim 1.

Please add the following new claims:

98. (New) A method of sealing a portion of a wellbore, comprising:
providing one or more expandable seals, the one or more expandable seals
having:

a tubular support member; and
a seal element mounted on the tubular support member;
locating the one or more expandable seals in the wellbore;
expanding the tubular support member; and

inflating the seal element radially outwardly into sealing engagement with the wellbore.

99. (New) The method of claim 98, wherein the support member is mechanically expanded.

100. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein the seal element is expanded when the support member is expanded.

101. (New) The method of claim 98, further comprising maintaining the seal element in sealing engagement with the wellbore.

102. (New) The method of claim 98, wherein the seal element is inflated by supplying a fluid under pressure to the seal element.

103. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid is supplied to a chamber between the support member and the seal element.

104. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid is pressurized above a pore pressure of a rock formation in the region of the wellbore adjacent the seal.

105. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid reacts with a filler material in the seal to form a single solid mass for maintaining the seal element inflated.

106. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the fluid reacts with a filler material in the seal to form a viscous mass for maintaining the seal element inflated and under pressure.

107. (New) The method of claim 98, further comprising enlarging the wellbore before locating the one or more expandable seals.

108. (New) The method of claim 98, further comprising providing an expandable sandscreen around the seal and expanding the sandscreen by inflating the seal element of the seal.
109. (New) The method of claim 98, wherein the one or more expandable seals comprise a first expandable seal coupled to a second expandable seal.
110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein the first and second expandable seals are coupled to an expandable tubular.
111. (New) The method of claim 110, further comprising expanding the expandable tubular.
112. (New) A method for isolating a wellbore, comprising:
running a sealing apparatus into the wellbore, the sealing apparatus having:
 a tubular;
 a sealing element disposed around the tubular;
 an annular area defined between the tubular and the sealing element;
and
 a fluid retaining material disposed in the annular area;
supplying a fluid into the annular area;
increasing the volume of the annular area; and
reacting the fluid retaining material with the fluid, thereby maintaining at least a portion of the increased volume.
113. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein increasing the volume comprises inflating the sealing element.
114. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the fluid retaining material increases in size after reacting with the fluid.

115. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein reacting the fluid retaining material with the fluid forms a viscous mixture.
116. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, swelling elastomer, bentonite, clay, and combinations thereof.
117. (New) The method of claim 112, further comprising expanding the tubular.
118. (New) A method for isolating a wellbore, comprising:
 running a packer into the wellbore, the packer having a sealing element and a filler material;
 inflating the sealing element into contact with the wellbore; and
 reacting the filler material with a fluid in the packer, thereby maintaining the sealing element in an inflated state.
119. (New) The method of claim 118, further comprising supplying fluid to the packer to inflate the sealing element.
120. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the filler material swells upon contact with the fluid.
121. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the sealing element maintains a sealing contact with the wellbore after inflation.
122. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein reacting the filler material with the fluid forms a viscous mixture.
123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein the mixture solidifies over time.

124. (New) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

a tubular;

a sealing element disposed around the tubular;

an annular area defined between the tubular and the sealing element.